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BOOK REVIEWS

The following 2 recent books have been published by W. Junk, Publishers, 13 van Stolckweg, The Hague, Netherlands. Both are monumental treatises on families of beetles, for which the publisher should be commended for producing. Even with the great dedication of the authors in conducting the research, it is often difficult to obtain commitments for printing such specialized books.

Monographie der Familie Platypodidae (Coleoptera) by Karl E. Schedl. 1972. v + 322 p.; 73 fig. 70 Dutch Guilders

Dr. Schedl has devoted over 50 years to the study of this economically important family and owns the World's largest collection of them. This, his greatest contribution, contains everything "... which is necessary for an understanding of the complex biological aspects together with a systematic section including determination keys for the sub-families and genera." The text is in German.

Biology of Coccinellidae by Ivo Hodek. 1973. 260 p.; 58 photos; 34 plates. 100 Dutch Guilders.

Three chapters are separately authored: 1) Taxonomy and morphology of adults, by I. Kovar; 2) Morphology and taxonomy of the larvae with keys for their identification, by G. I. Savoiskaya and B. Klausnitzer; 3) Variability and genetic studies, by A. Honek. A pictorial color key to 4th instar larvae and a simple field key (by Klausnitzer and Kovar) is attached in an envelope so that it can be removed for field use. The text is in English.

The volume will undoubtedly lead to greater interest in this family, because of the thoroughness of the coverage here. It is unfortunate that such volumes are so rarely produced, and that often lifetimes are required to do so. The color production is useful, but suffers from some poor registration and a coarser half-tone screening than desirable. All in all, it is a splendid contribution.

—R. E. Woodruff